

MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION

September 20, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present

Dr. Dan Blower, Chair
Tim Yungfer, Vice Chair
Fred Bueter
Sharon Conklin
Dave Goller
Walter Heinritzi
Capt. Mike Krumm
Michael Prince

Commissioners Absent

Charles Moser

Guests

Lawrence Archer
Mary Lynn Fattel
Larry Fennell
MC Lt. Susan Fries
John Wallace
Don Willcutt
Michelle Zemla
Tom O'Brien
Dianne O'Brien
Bobby Gwizdz
Greg Causley
Carissa McQuiston
Bill Kotynski
Robert Ramels

OHSP Staff

Kara Rueckert
Spencer Simmons

ROLL CALL

The Michigan Truck Safety Commission meeting was called to order by Dr. Dan Blower, Chair, at 9:01 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Self-introductions were made by those present.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Spencer Simmons - Office of Highway Safety Planning

Mr. Simmons (OHSP) reviewed the most recent financial report through August 30, 2017, including the difference between budgeted amounts and liquidated amounts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to accept the May 17, 2017 minutes was made by Mr. Tim Yungfer, and supported by Capt. Mike Krumm. The motion carries.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentations in recognition of their years of service were presented to Mr. Robert Ramels and Mr. Tom O'Brien, whose terms on the commission have come to an end.

STANDING REPORTS

A. Chair's Report – Dr. Dan Blower

The National Academy of Sciences Review of Compliance, Safety, and Accountability report has been issued. This report looks at the methods that FMCSA uses to identify unsafe motor carriers and to

determine better safety methods. This thorough evaluation displays a wide variety of voices and the report represents carriers of all types. The committee consisted primarily of statisticians who came together to discuss how to use the crash and inspection data to identify unsafe carriers and evaluate interventions on them. There is a variance in enforcement and inspection emphasis and missing data that needed to be addressed. Confidence intervals and statistical procedures will be used in the new method and the FMCSA meetings discussed how to implement new methods. There will be a two-year period where this new methodology will be implemented. Recommendations include:

- development of a new model for data;
- collaborate with states;
- collect additional data on motor carriers;
- provide user-friendly versions of data;
- undertake a study to better understand how scores are interpreted;
- restructure the use of metrics with SMS (both absolute and relative metrics)

Ultimately, there is a need for more uniform inspection data across the country.

B. Commissioners Perspectives

Sharon Conklin – Representing Private Motor Carriers

Ms. Conklin noted that several motor carriers were present to express their concern for the skid pad.

Mike Prince – Office of Highway Safety Planning. Mr. Prince briefly discussed the fatality and crash data just released and the frequency in which this data changes. Fatalities are at 653 as of September 11, compared to 612 this time in 2016.

Mr. Prince and Dr. Blower were on a panel at the GHSA conference regarding the fluctuations in and factors affecting fatalities.

For the first time, an 83-county seatbelt study for passenger vehicles was conducted. Seatbelt use is down to 94%. There are 31 counties below 93% and 13 counties below 90%.

GTSAC award nominations are due November 3.

OHSP is down about 20% in staffing; currently working to backfill four vacant positions.

Capt. Mike Krumm – Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, Michigan State Police. Trooper seriously injured this morning in Rockford only has three years of service in the department.

Fred Bueter – Michigan Department of State.

Mr. Bueter discussed how FMCSA used to do evaluations more frequently, but funding issues have interfered with this recently. John Wallace (FMSCA) assists MDOS with this decrease by conducting annual reviews to capture data and practices. There were no new findings this year; only one finding remains open regarding cleaning up CDL pointer data.

Procedure change on handing the input of road test results. In-house quality control efforts were catching many branch input errors caused, in part, by differences in how the road test results were noted on the form versus branch office data entry methods. Too many driver license records needed to be corrected and new cards issued so now offices must call the CDL Help Desk for all new Commercial Driver License applications to ensure proper issuance.

C. Enforcement Grant Activity Report – MC Lt. Susan Fries – Michigan State Police. MC Lt. Fries updated the Commissioners on CVED's recent Summer of Semi-Safety project, which looked at high crash hours during a five-week (Monday-Friday) campaign. Each non-consecutive week took a different focus: speed, awareness, following too closely/seat belts, driver education, and distracted driving.

The CVED grant is still running smoothly and should be expended by the end of the fiscal year.

E. Education Grant Activity Report – Ms. Michelle Zemla – Michigan Center for Truck Safety. Ms. Zemla explained each reported goal for the third quarter:

- Simulator training is at 113% of goal
- 46% of demonstrations with the simulator; 4th quarter will increase percentage significantly
- Management training is at 96%
- Fatigue program will be running by October of FY18
- Social media outreach has increased by 25%
- Phone calls are at 56% (cell phone calls are not included)
- Driver performance management is at 20% of goal; low because Baker college is no longer involved in truck driver training business
- National safety council of defensive driving is at 124%
- Seminars is at 102%
- Truck driver guide books—distributed 8500 copies

PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

Joel Gordon (DTMB) was not present to give a skid pad update. Mr. Prince offered a brief update on his behalf: there is a completed project scope to be reviewed; Mr. Gordon will send the scope to Mr. Prince for comments and to forward to the commissioners. It is anticipated that the RFP will be out by the end of September to give MTSC costs and other necessary information by the November meeting. The project could break ground as early as February 2018, with commission approval and funding. Dr. Blower said it will be necessary to discuss the budget and go to the trucking industry and state legislature to raise funds.

ACTION ITEM

A. Review and Approval of the FY18 Education Grant. Ms. Zemla gave an overview of the grant. Capt. Krumm made a motion to approve the grant, Ms. Conklin supported the motion. Mr. Yungfer opened discussion regarding a decrease in personnel; budget does not differentiate by location, so there is no decrease in number of employees. Grant management fee increase: Mr. Heinritz explained it is only a contingency amount; any amount spent would have to be approved. A new line item has been added to the operating costs of the budget for payroll and drug/alcohol testing; this used to be included in the personnel, but has been separated per OHSP financial staff suggestion.

Mr. Prince raised question about salary increases and whether they are based on a salary schedule. Ms. Zemla explained they are based on skills, abilities, and duties. Mr. Prince also asked about the public information line item of \$190,000; Ms. Zemla explained this line is for marketing the center and they are currently looking for a vendor who will create a communications plan. It was recommended that the communications plan be submitted before any money from this line be spent, aside from the fees associated with the plan and demo event costs. It was noted that this might unnecessarily delay progress on the Center's activities. It was decided that the Truck Center must provide a copy of the communications plan with details on how the marketing funds will be spent when the plan is completed. Following roll call vote, the motion carries and the grant was approved in the amount of \$1,137,230.

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Blower		Heinritzi	Goller
Yungfer			
Bueter			
Conklin			
Goller			
Krumm			
Prince			

B. Review and Approval of the FY18 Enforcement Grant. MC Lt. Fries walked through the grant. After a brief discussion regarding civil service fees and the financial approval process, it was decided there is nothing new financially with the grant and it is written to standards. Mr. Heinritzi made a motion to approve, Mr. Yungfer supported. Following roll call vote, the motion carries to approve the grant in the amount of \$1,705,927.

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Blower		Krumm	Goller
Yungfer			
Bueter			
Conklin			
Goller			
Heinritzi			
Prince			

C. CMV Tact Project. The CMV TACT (Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks) project was last conducted in Michigan in 2014 has been found to be effective in other states. There is interest in a second program in Michigan. UMTRI reported the number of fatalities for 2015 was lower than predicted and in 2016 they were higher than predicted. This created a false indication of a dramatic increase in fatalities. It was suggested the TACT project take place in southeast Michigan over a three-week wave. It is predicted the budget would be around \$200,000 and would include outdoor advertisement, radio ads, and social media outreach geared toward 18 to 34-year-old adults. Discussion regarding who would take the lead on the project; proposed to create a sub-committee to consider the project. Committee will consist of Dr. Blower, Mr. Prince, Mr. Yungfer, Capt. Krumm, and Ms. Conklin. Additional members to invite will include F/Lt. Jim Flegel (MSP), Insp. Wolf (MSP), and additional OHSP staff. A follow-up meeting of this committee will be scheduled.

D. Approval of 2018 MTSC Meeting Dates. Proposed adding a January 10 meeting; schedule amended to include this date. A motion to accept the 2018 meeting dates was made by Capt. Krumm and was supported by Mr. Yungfer. The motion carries.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was a question regarding the total amount spent on approved grants. A point was made that it would be convenient and appreciated to have the totals included for those outside the commission.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the MTSC is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at the Center for Truck Safety.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.